

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

LAB-01 AID-10 EB-03 SIL-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PRS-01

COME-00 IO-03 RSR-01 /066 W  
----- 050504

P 250025Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4909

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAN JOSE 3021

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PFOR, CS

SUBJ: PTI INVOLVEMENT IN ELECTRICAL WORKERS' STRIKE

REF: SAN JOSE 2914, 2939 AND 3000

1. I WANT TO CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION  
TO A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS AND INCREASINGLY  
ACUTE LABOR PROBLEM HERE, AND TO THE POTENTIAL  
IN IT FOR SERIOUS AND ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES  
FOR THE EMBASSY AND FOR THE US AS A RESULT OF  
ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISPUTE BY THE PTI  
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN SAN JOSE. THE  
FACTS OF THE LABOR DISPUTE ARE OUTLINED IN  
REFTELS. PTI INVOLVEMENT CONSISTS OF ACTIVE

PARTICIPATION BY THE PTI REPRESENTATIVE,  
LOU MOORE, A US CITIZEN, IN THE NEGOTIATIONS  
BETWEEN SITET, ICE AND THE LABOR MINISTRY AS A  
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SITET ADVISOR. MOORE HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE

ROLE IN DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS, AND HAS BEEN, FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, A PART OF THE SITET TEAM. IN ADDITION, A CENTRAL AMERICAN PTTI CONGRESS HELD IN SAN JOSE LAST WEEK PUBLICLY ENDORSED THE SITET DEMANDS AND WALLACE LEGGE, PTTI LATIN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE, AND ALSO A US CITIZEN, PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED PTTI SUPPORT FOR SITET IN THIS DISPUTE.

2. THE POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE LIES IN THE FACT THAT THE DISPUTE APPEARS TO BE HEADED FOR A SERIOUS STRIKE AND A HEAD-TO-HEAD CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL END UP BEING A HIGHLY POLITICIZED SITUATION AND MAYBE EVEN A PUBLIC ORDER ONE. THE POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO US LIES IN THE RISK THAT WE WILL BE ACCUSED OF INTERFERING IN--AND BY THOSE INTERESTED IN GIGGING US, OF INSTIGATING--THE DISPUTE BECAUSE OF MOORE'S AND PTTI'S ROLE. WE HAVE LITTLE HOPE THAT IN THE HEAT OF A CONFRONTATION, AND EVEN IN THE COOLER ATMOSPHERE OF THE PRESENT, THE DISTINCTION WILL BE PERCEIVED BETWEEN THE PTTI AND THE USG/EMBASSY. AS SAN JOSE 3000 POINTED OUT, THE ALLEGATION OF US EMBASSY INTERFERENCE IS ALREADY BEING MADE, AND THE RECORD OF PRESIDENT FIGUERES' PERSISTENCE IN BELIEVING THAT SOME USG SUBSIDY OF LABOR MOVEMENTS OCCURS (NOT NECESSARILY THROUGH THE EMBASSY) DOES NOT MAKE US VERY SANGUINE. CHARGES OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND MORE SPECIFICALLY US INVOLVEMENT AND GOCR BELIEF IN THEM ARE A REAL PROBABILITY, AND OUR VULNERABILITY TO SUCH CHARGES IS INCREASED BY THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF SITET GETS A SALARY SUBSIDY FROM DISTRICT 4 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, THEIR

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"SISTER UNION".

3. PERSISTENT REQUESTS FROM THE EMBASSY FOR LESS PTTI DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISPUTE DID NOT SLOW DOWN THE TEMPO. CONSEQUENTLY SINCE I FELT THAT THE POTENTIAL FOR TROUBLE IS SERIOUS, I HELD A PERSONAL MEETING WITH LOU MOORE AUGUST 24. MOORE, WHO IS A VERY

DEDICATED, SENSITIVE, AND SENSIBLE PERSON,  
TELLS ME THAT HE CONCEIVES OF PTTI AS BEING  
SITET'S PARENT ORGANIZATION, AND THAT HIS  
(AND PTTI'S) ROLE IS TO HELP THEM ALL THEY CAN.  
ESSENTIALLY THIS MEANS ADVICE AND TRAINING,  
BUT IT NEVERTHELESS INCLUDES, IN HIS VIEW,  
HELPING IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, AND IN  
ORGANIZING. THEREFORE, HE HAS NO CHOICE,  
HE SAYS, BUT TO DO WHAT HE HAS DONE IN  
THIS DISPUTE. HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE  
RISKS TO HIMSELF AND TO THE PTTI AND THE  
EMBARRASSMENT IT MIGHT CAUSE THE US, BUT  
HE FELT HE MUST CONTINUE. I TOLD HIM THAT  
UNFORTUNATELY MUCH MORE WAS NOW INVOLVED  
THAN JUST A LABOR DISPUTE OR SUPPORT TO A  
LABOR UNION. WHAT WAS HAPPENING WAS THAT  
PTTI'S ACTIVIST ROLE WAS INEXORABLY, EVEN  
IF UNJUSTLY, DRAGGING THE USG INTO THE  
PICTURE AND GIVING US THE REAL POSSIBILITY  
OF SERIOUS FOREIGN RELATIONS PROBLEMS I  
ASKED HIM TO PULL BACK FROM SUCH ACTIVE  
INVOLVEMENT, AND HE SAID HE COULD NOT BUT  
WOULD BE AS SENSITIVE AS HE COULD TO THE  
CONSIDERATIONS I POSED.

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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P 270031Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4910

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAN JOSE 3021

LIMDIS

4. I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NOTHING IN THIS CABLE IS INTENDED TO BE PERSONALLY CRITICAL OF LOU MOORE. HE IS A VERY ABLE ADVISOR, HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE WITH THE EMBASSY GENERALLY, AND IS VERY SINCERE IN WHAT HE THINKS HE HAS TO DO. MY PURPOSE IN WRITING THIS CABLE IS TWO-FOLD: A) TO ALERT THE DEPARTMENT THAT WE ARE HEADING INTO A REAL PROBLEM, AND THERE IS NOT MUCH WE CAN DO AT THIS POINT BUT "HUNKER DOWN", AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, B) TO HIGHLIGHT

THE DEEPER CONCEPTUAL QUESTION OF WHAT KIND OF A ROLE PTTI PLAYS AND THE RESULTS THAT THAT ACTIVITY CAN HAVE FOR THE U.S. AND ITS BROADER INTERESTS. THIS LATTER POINT IS ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF THE CATEGORY OF PROBLEMS WHICH THE USG GETS ITSELF DRAGGED INTO OR STUCK WITH PROBLEMS SPRINGING OUT OF THINGS

IT DOES NOT CONTROL OR INFLUENCE, I.E., ACTIONS OF MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS, ETC. IF IN FACT THE PTTI CONSIDERS THAT ITS REPRESENTATIVES CAN GET INVOLVED IN LOCAL LABOR DISPUTES, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE RISKS THAT THIS WILL CREATE "INTERVENTION" CASES AND INVOLVE US ARE VERY HIGH. FREQUENTLY, AS IN THIS CASE, THE ARGUMENT THAT THE PTTI IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION NOT UNDER OUR CONTROL MAY HAVE LITTLE IF ANY PRACTICAL EFFECT, AND WHILE INTELLECTUALLY SATISFYING WILL NOT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER KEEP US OUT OF TROUBLE OR AVOID PROBLEMS STRETCHING FAR BEYOND JUST LABOR.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING WHAT THE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSTANDING IS AS TO THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS IN THIS SENSE, ITS VIEWS ON THE DEEPER CONCEPTUAL ISSUE OF THE CONSEQUENCES TO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND RELATIONS OF SUCH A ROLE. VAKY

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**TAGS:** ELAB, PFOR, CS, US, PTTI, (MOORE, LOU), (LEGGE, WALLACE)  
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**Type:** TE  
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